MUNDO OBRERO
WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 67, No. 22 May 29, 2025 $1

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Big budget robs poor, feeds rich

By G. Dunkel and John Catalinotto

May 26. The White House's big bulls – t budget bill passed the House the morning of May 24 in a 215 to 214 vote and may pass the Senate this week, although there are reports some Republican senators fear the consequences. Trump is pushing to get it through fast.

Let's keep it simple: Trump's "big beautiful budget" rips off hundreds of billions of dollars from the poorest members of the working class. It hands this stolen loot to a tiny number of the richest people in the United States.

This is the essence of Trump's MAGA regime. It's why billionaires backed Trump's election with cash. They want to steal an even greater amount of the wealth that workers create than they steal already.

We don't even have to do the math ourselves. Opponents of the bill, like political economist Robert Reich, former labor secretary under former President Bill Clinton, has done the math already. In this particular case, we can believe him.

Trump lied when he said he wouldn't touch Medicare. The bill will cut Medicare by $500 billion, says Reich. That's a half-trillion dollars. Retired and disabled workers rely on Medicare to pay for medical costs.

The bill would, according to the Congressional Budget Office: impose work requirements for Medicaid starting at the end of 2026; cut nearly $1 trillion from Medicaid and food stamps; spend $150 billion [more] on military programs; limit judges' power to hold the Trump administration in contempt; phase out Biden-era energy tax credits sooner than planned; make trillions of dollars of income tax breaks for the rich permanent; allocate $45 billion to build new immigration detention facilities.

Robin Hood in reverse

Trump lied when he said he would go easy on Medicaid, which the lowest income earners rely on. At least 8.6 million people will lose Medicaid coverage.

The tax cut will benefit the rich. "Overwhelmingly," says Reich. The top one-tenth of 1% of income "earners" will gain $390,000 per year. They don't need that income. But they want it.

Workers who earn between $17,000 and $51,000 per year will lose about $700 a year. Workers who earn less than $17,000 a year will lose more than $1,000 a year on average. Reich did the math.

Anyone who knows anything about the unequal distribution of income in the United States knows that this means pain for the working class, and it will hurt people of color most, along with women and

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Meeting on socialist China

Photo: anamaría flores

Representatives from 12 U.S.-based organizations were part of an audience that packed the Workers World Party office in New York City May 26 to attend a meeting organized by Friends of Socialist China entitled "China Rises from Poverty to Prosperity."

A delegation of six representatives from China's Guizhou Province were the guests. Two women from the delegation described the concrete measures taken to raise economic, social and educational conditions in that isolated, mountainous and formerly impoverished province.

— Report by Sara Flounders

Centerfold

Statement on D.C. shooting
Nakba protests
Genocide in Gaza

Carmen Guerrero spoke at the Memorial Day anti-war demonstration in Portland, Oregon, as an Indigenous Mayan, Aztec woman In support of her siblings in Palestine.

WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY

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Workers World celebrates LGBTQIA2S+ Pride: 'We won't go back!'

For over half a century, Workers World newspaper has covered the global struggle to end all forms of discrimination, persecution and violence against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersexual, Asexual and Two-Spirit communities.

WW consistently backed up our activist coverage with analysis. In the early 1970s, WW ran a series of articles that led to publication of "The Gay Question: A Marxist Appraisal" in 1976. Then in 1993, WW republished it as "The Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View," with a new preface and afterword. (These and works below are available at ***workers.org/books***.)

In 2004, WW managing editor and globally recognized transgender leader Leslie Feinberg began the "Lavender & Red" series, which ran until 2008 in WW. A group of 25 articles from that series was later published as the book, "Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba." Notify us if you want a free paper copy.

Feinberg was an ardent supporter of the Palestinian resistance against U.S.-backed Zionism. In a 2007 speech given at an ASWAT — Palestinian Gay Women conference in Haifa, Feinberg stated: "Today we see how the imperialists — the U.S. to Israelis — use the experiences of women, of gays, of transgenders as pretexts for imperialist war. The white supremacist ideology replaces the colonial claim of 'bringing civilization' into imperialist claims that they are 'bringing democracy.'"

In 2012 Feinberg engaged in civil disobedience and wrote articles defending Black trans woman CeCe McDonald, who was charged with manslaughter after defending herself from a racist, bigoted attack.

WW has consistently covered important events such as Trans Day of Remembrance in honor of those who have lost their lives to bigotry, as well as annual Pride Day events around the country.

Our paper will continue to voice solidarity with the trans community, now under vicious attack by the Trump administration.

Your help is needed!

This pro-worker newspaper depends on our readers' backing. The WW Supporter Program was launched 47 years ago to help publish this socialist newspaper and 31 years later fund workers.org where new articles are posted daily and the weekly paper's PDF is displayed.

Workers.org contains news and analyses of global and U.S. struggles, bulletins from Palestinian and other national liberation movements and articles translated by our staff. Mundo Obrero publishes articles in Spanish. Our writer-organizers report on anti-capitalist struggles and people's movements against racism and war and for the rights of women, workers, migrants, prisoners, other oppressed people and jobless, LGTBQIA2S+, young, older and disabled individuals. Prisoners receive all issues for free. **The website is a resource for political activists.**

While WW's staff is voluntary, the 12 annually printed issues and workers.org incur expenses. Many online publications require payments to read their articles; WW does not. **Our articles are free to all readers.**

Can you donate $50, $100 or $200 a year? Contributing $50 or more will entitle you to receive the print issues and five weekly emails linking to online articles.

Your donations help get class truth to more readers — and are appreciated. Write monthly or annual checks to Workers World. Mail them with your name, address and email to Workers World, 121 West 27th St., Rm. 404, New York, NY 10001.

A contingent from Youth Against War and Fascism (YAWF), a youth affiliate of Workers World Party, at the 1974 New York City Pride march.

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people's movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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Powerful three-day strike wins new contract for New Jersey Transit engineers

By Mary Owen
New York City

On May 18, Locomotive Engineers at New Jersey Transit (NJT) won a new tentative contract with an improved wage offer after a solid three-day strike that halted the vital passenger rail service statewide. A message on the union's strike website said it all: "Thank you members. We did it."

The NJT engineers were forced out on strike after midnight May 16 when transit bosses walked out of contract negotiations. This was the second round of bargaining with the Locomotive Engineers union, representing 450 engineers and trainees, after 87% of voting members overwhelmingly rejected a previous proposal.

WW PHOTO: MARY OWEN

A solidarity delegation from Workers World Party joined other worker delegations on the picket line with striking NJT locomotive engineers and trainees outside New York's Penn Station, May 18.

According to the Locomotive Engineers union, "New Jersey Transit engineers have the lowest wage among all passenger engineers in the US." This has caused constant job turnover as trained and experienced engineers leave for better pay and benefits at other passenger railroads. In current talks, they demanded parity with fellow railway workers at Amtrak and mass transit in the Northeast, so they could stay at NJT long-term, making it safer and more reliable for passengers.

A statement on the union website explained: "There is no reasonable justification for the engineers of New Jersey Transit to be paid significantly less than their sisters and brothers who perform the exact same jobs, on the same tracks, operating into the same stations, even operating the very same trains, simply because they bring commuters from the other side of the Hudson River. All NJT engineers want is equal pay for equal work."

Bosses feel economic pressure

NJT is the third largest commuter rail system in the U.S., transporting some 100,000 riders daily. This was the first NJT strike since a 34-day work stoppage in 1983. The value of locomotive engineers and trainees' labor to the capitalist economy quickly became apparent and exerted strong pressure on the bosses for an acceptable settlement.

NJT management estimated the strike could cost the agency $4 million a day. The Partnership for New York, speaking for big New York City capitalists, estimated a $6 million productivity loss for every hour that commuters were delayed getting to work. (NYT, May 18)

With no engineers to move passenger trains, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy's feeble solution was to urge commuters to work from home. The National Mediation Board, which is responsible for keeping capitalist interstate commerce flowing, showed up to get contract talks moving again.

With costs piling up and a Monday, May 19 rush hour looming, the strike sent transit bosses scrambling to provide alternate service and quickly brought them back to the bargaining table over the May 17-18 weekend.

Picket lines and solidarity

Picket lines went up on May 16 at locked NJT stations in Newark, Hoboken, Trenton and other New Jersey locations as well as in New York City. The Locomotive Engineers belong to the Teamsters rail conference, and other unions soon showed their support.

In Atlantic City, according to strikers, when the engineers picketed the popular NJT line from Philadelphia, trades workers at the Atlantic City Convention Center packed up their tools and walked out in solidarity. Freight engineers showed support by refusing to run their trains over NJT rails, effectively halting their freight deliveries in South Jersey.

At New York City's Penn Station, a steady stream of passersby stopped to express solidarity with the engineers on the first day of the strike. Among them was a supportive NJT clerk.

"They're trying to pay you three-years-ago wages, two years from now," she said. "That's not right. I'm with you!"

"Millions for Penthouse Views, Nothing for Train Crews" read one of the signs carried by workers in red union shirts outside Penn Station, referring to the money NJT spent on its new half-billion-dollar headquarters. Meanwhile, engineers had gone six years with no raises after working through the COVID-19 lockdowns in 2020-21 during which they lost colleagues.

By the third day of the strike, the Locomotive Engineers were joined on the New York City picket line by solidarity delegations from the Transport Workers Union, Sesame Workers Union, teachers, Workers World Party and others.

Ultimately, however, it was the solid strike by tenacious engineers and trainees that won the new tentative agreement, which reportedly contains the wage increase they fought for and which they voted on when they returned to work May 20.

Tom Haas, the union's general chairman at NJ Transit stated, "While I won't get into the exact details of the deal reached, I will say that the only real issue was wages, and we were able to reach an agreement that boosts hourly pay beyond the proposal rejected by our members last month and beyond where we were when NJ Transit's managers walked away from the table Thursday evening." (Associated Press, May 19) □

On the picket line

when we fight we win!

By Marie Kelly

Unions join forces against harassment and deportation of members

When 200 immigrant workers — from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela — had their work authorizations revoked at a Louisville, Kentucky, appliance factory, unions there came together in protest. Appliance Park was a General Electric Plant before it was sold to the Haier company. It is the only unionized plant producing GE appliances; 97% of the workers at the plant are members of the Communication Workers industrial division (IUE-CWA Local 83761).

IUE-CWA President Carl Kennebrew said: "What is happening to our members at Appliance Park is unfolding at workplaces and in communities all across the country. We cannot allow those who are sowing division to win. Blaming immigrants is an age-old trick to create fear and distract us from the takeover of our economy by billionaires." (Labor Notes, April 17)

The Kentucky state AFL-CIO condemned the targeting of immigrant workers and held know-your-rights training for affiliated unions whose members may also be affected by deportation orders.

Jefferson County teachers' union member Cassie Lyles teaches at a high school near the Appliance Park plant and fears students will be afraid to attend class because of the government's harsh and unjust treatment of their family members.

Lyles said: "I think the best thing we can do is stick together, because it's not just going to affect people at the Appliance Park. This is going to affect workers in every union. These are our neighbors. These are kids who are in my building. So we want to make sure that we stand strong." The National Education Association has shared resources with teachers to handle potential raids.

In another show of solidarity, members of the graduate student workers union at University of Pennsylvania, affiliated with the United Auto Workers, delivered a petition to the Provost office, signed by over 2,000 graduate student workers. It demanded the Penn administration agree to enshrine strong protections against harassment, discrimination and abuse in their union contract. Penn has targeted students for participating in pro-Palestine demonstrations, a clear violation of their right to free speech.

Health care workers organize against pandemic 'New Normal'

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to take a tremendous toll on health care workers because of staffing shortages and the large volume of patients treated. Health care facility management, however, used those two factors to help their own profit margins and haven't taken a hit to their bottom line.

Workers are calling this the "new normal," and many are unionizing as a way to fight back. Over 1,000 workers at New York's Crystal Run Healthcare primary care centers, a United Healthcare/Optum Care subsidiary, successfully joined Service Employees Union 1199 United Healthcare Workers East early this year.

Alamo Drafthouse strikers, February 2025, New York City.

Close to 2,300 nurses organized with the Oregon Nurses Association at three Legacy Hospital System facilities. ONA credits the win to nurses' frustration with the corporatization of health care — executives with business degrees calling the shots with no clear understanding of the actual needs of nurses and their patients. The nurses at the bedside recognize this profit-driven strategy is detrimental to their patients' recovery and to their own work-life balance.

Entertainment and cultural labor wins

The Independence Seaport Museum is the latest Philadelphia cultural institution where workers have organized with the Cultural Workers United (CWU) American Federations of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 397.

A worker at the museum stated: "I support ISM Workers United, because I believe we need a voice in the decisions that affect us. Our ships' crews endure sweltering or frozen days on the ships, and they should be among the staff who determine when it is safe for them — and for the public — to be on our historic ships. A union will help secure that safety." (Philly CWU Instagram, April 4)

Philly CWU District Council has recently declared itself a "sanctuary union." A resolution approved by the membership declares in part: "We will not voluntarily cooperate with federal agents to enforce immigration laws, including, but not limited to, collecting personal information from our members or other individuals which might reveal their immigration status." (Philly CWU Instagram, April 23)

Workers at two Sony-owned Alamo Drafthouse theatres in New York City ended their 56-day strike with a win. Alamo Drafthouse union members are represented by United Auto Workers Local 2179. The union filed an Unfair Labor Practice charge against the company after it laid off over 70 workers. The strike was called in February when the theatres refused to bargain in good faith. The union ended the strike after an agreement was ratified that will reinstate the laid-off staffers as well as restore their previously accrued paid time off, sick time and seniority. □

Marking 40 years since Philadelphia city officials bombed MOVE

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

Honoring the 11 people murdered by the state when they dropped a bomb on the MOVE organization's house in West Philadelphia on May 13, 1985, over 100 people gathered to commemorate the 40th anniversary of this horrific event. From a stage erected at Osage Avenue and 63rd Street, next to the Historic Marker designating what happened nearby, speakers described the events of that day. They also described the history of MOVE's conflict with the city and the brutality experienced at the hands of the Philadelphia Police Department.

Those present were urged to recommit themselves to the struggle for freedom from a system that little values the lives of so many people.

YahNé Ndgo read the names of the five children — Tree Africa, Delisha Africa, Netta Africa, Little Phil Africa and Tomaso Africa — and the six adults — Theresa Africa, Rhonda Africa, Frank Africa, Conrad Africa, Raymond Africa and John Africa — who died in the fire that consumed their home. When officials from police and fire departments and Mayor Wilson Goode made their infamous decision to "let the fire burn," 61 homes across two city blocks in a mainly Black neighborhood were leveled to the ground.

Activist Krystal Strong described how the federal government supported Philadelphia police by providing them with high-grade military weapons and the helicopter that dropped the powerfully explosive C-4 bomb on the house. The fire department, which refused to extinguish the fire and save the trapped residents, instead assisted the police with water cannons used over the previous 12 hours to weaken the building's structure.

Ndgo and Strong, along with Gabe Bryant, took turns recounting the group's history of clashing with the system since its formation in 1973. A weeks-long police siege of the MOVE house in the Powelton Village area of Philadelphia in 1978 resulted in death by "friendly fire" of one police officer, for which nine MOVE members (the MOVE 9) were sentenced to 30 to 100 years in prison. Media captured the brutal beating of Delbert Africa by police. Mayor Frank Rizzo had the house bulldozed before any examination for evidence could happen.

Group shot of participants at 40th anniversary commemoration for MOVE, Philadelphia, May 13, 2025. WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Strong described how, in 1985, the police gathered MOVE children, who had been playing in the nearby park, and brought them back to the Osage Avenue house just hours before the police attacked. During the confrontation, children and some adults made efforts to escape the burning building through a basement exit to an ally behind the building. Police, including several who were part of the 1978 confrontation, were allowed to patrol this area and according to witnesses fired hundreds of bullets at anyone trying to escape.

The only survivors were Birdie Africa, who was 13 at the time, and Ramona Africa, who suffered severe burns in the conflict. As with the Powelton Village house, when the fire burned out, city officials quickly destroyed evidence of the extent of their militarized attack.

Total lack of accountability

In the 40 years since, the MOVE Commission, held in 1988 to investigate the city's actions, found the officials were "grossly negligent" and their plan to drop a bomb "reckless, ill conceived and hastily approved." But not one official was ever charged with a crime or held accountable.

On the other hand, Ramona Africa was imprisoned for seven years after surviving the May 13 fire, and the MOVE 9 members remained imprisoned, after two died. The rest were released in 2018 and 2020.

In 2020, 35 years after the bombing, ex-Mayor Wilson Goode issued a formal apology for his role.

In 2021, the depth of city officials' depravity concerning MOVE members was revealed when it was reported that a University of Pennsylvania anthropologist mishandled the remains of at least one bombing victim, using their bones in an online course. Around the same time the city Health Commissioner Thomas Farley was forced to resign when the other remains of the MOVE children were found in a box in a storage room. Living relatives of the children only recently forced the city to return the children's remains.

This year, on May 8 Philadelphia City Council member Jamie Gauthier, who represents the area in which the bombing occurred, succeeded in getting the council to pass a motion to mark May 13 with an official day of remembrance.

'Reclaim Osage'

The homes destroyed on May 13 in 1985 were eventually rebuilt by the city, but construction was so shoddy that many had to be rebuilt again. Gentrification also took its toll on the neighborhood. The MOVE property at 6221 Osage, which was taken away from the family by the city, was eventually sold for $1.00 to a developer who turned around and sold it for $300,000.

Mike Africa Jr., whose parents were MOVE 9 members, addressed the memorial ceremony with information about his campaign to raise funds to buy back the property. He said that because the city has shown no care for the bombing victims for decades, he and others hope to start a new chapter in the organization's history and "reclaim Osage." They are trying to raise $400,000 through a GoFundMe campaign.

"We will show the city that we don't need you," Africa told the crowd. "We as a community have everything that we need within it, and we're not asking for the city to do anything, but we're demanding justice, and we're going to keep on pushing forward. On the move." (WHYY, May 14, 2025)

MOVE 9 members who were finally released frequently raise that justice for them would be for the state to release political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. ❐

Palestine Center warns of slow extermination in 'israeli' prisons

The following statement was posted by Resistance News Network Prisoners on May 24, 2025.

The Palestine Center for Prisoner Studies has warned that the "israeli" occupation persists in its deliberate policy of slowly killing Palestinian detainees through systematic torture, starvation, medical neglect and relentless repression — especially targeting those from the Gaza Strip. To date, seventy prisoners have been killed in "israeli" jails over the past twenty months.

The Center accuses the occupation of engineering these deaths in a calculated manner, normalizing prisoner martyrdoms so that each new death no longer registers as a notable event demanding investigation or accountability, even superficially. As a result, no soldiers or officers are ever held responsible for the killings.

Since October 7, 2023, the occupation has also enforced a policy of enforced disappearance for Gaza's detainees, refusing to disclose their true numbers, detention conditions or even their locations. Dozens of prisoners have died under this veil of secrecy; their names and circumstances of death are withheld, leaving families in perpetual anguish, unsure whether their loved ones remain alive or have already perished.

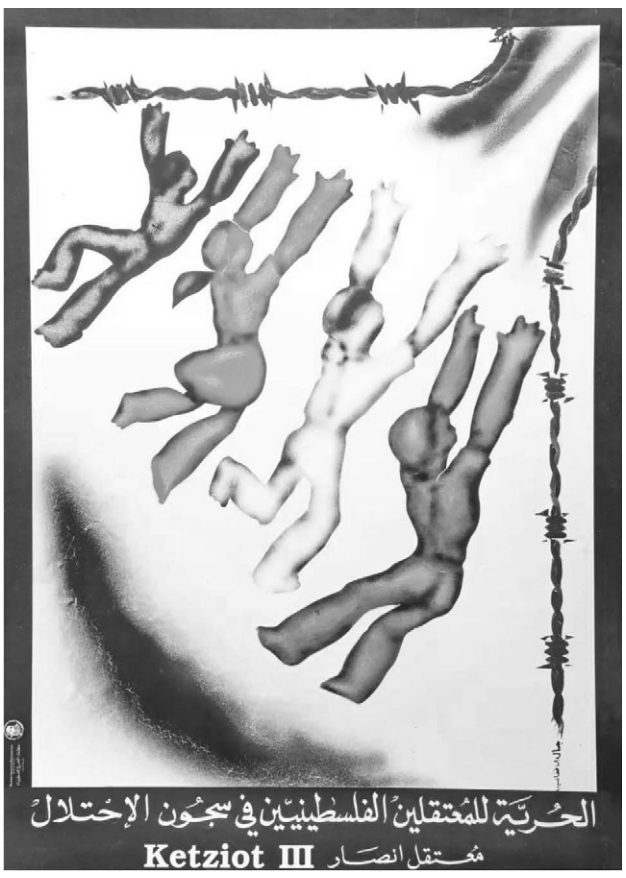
Only yesterday, authorities belatedly notified the Center of the death of 33-year-old Amr Hatem Odeh from Gaza, who died under torture in "Sde Teman" Prison in December 2023 — nearly a year and a half ago. His martyrdom was announced now only after sustained pressure from rights organizations.

A week earlier, "israel" revealed the deaths of three Gaza detainees previously listed as missing: Ayman Abdel-Hadi Qudeih, killed nineteen months ago; Bilal Talal Salama, executed nine months ago; and Mohammad Ismail al-Astal, executed three weeks before any deaths were disclosed. These delayed admissions confirm that many more prisoners have been secretly executed without any official acknowledgment.

The Center emphasizes that since October 7, 2023, "israeli" authorities have escalated their campaign of prisoner killings through brutal torture forbidden by international law, deliberate medical neglect of the sick and injured, severe and worsening starvation that collapses bodies and spreads disease, inhumane detention conditions and practices so unethical they constitute sexual violence against detainees.

Since 1967, 307 Palestinian prisoners have died as martyrs. Of these, seventy have perished since the current war on Gaza began — 44 of them from the Gaza Strip, comprising 62% of all prison martyrs during this period. "Israel" continues to withhold the bodies of 79 of its prison martyrs, including 68 who died since the Gaza assault began, denying families the dignity of burial.

These actions, the Palestine Center asserts, amount to unquestionable war crimes. The center calls on the international community and human-rights organizations — already recognizing Israel's genocidal campaign in Gaza — to document and prosecute those responsible for the calculated extermination of Palestinian prisoners, particularly in "Sde Teman," "Ofer" and "Negev" prisons under an extremist government that shields perpetrators from accountability. ❐



'Freedom for Palestinian Detainees in Occupation prisons, Ansar III Prison (Ketziot)' issued by the Unified Information Office of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1990. Designed by the artist Jamal Al Afghani.

Cuba holds 'Days Against Homophobia and Transphobia'

By Martha Grevatt

The International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, May 17, marks the day in 1990 when the World Health Assembly removed homosexuality from its classification of "mental disorders." This year, the 18th year of Cuban Days Against Homophobia and Transphobia, the activities in Cuba ran from May 5 to May 18.

The theme for 2025 is "Love is Law" — a reference to the revisions to Cuba's Family Code, ratified September 2022 by a referendum vote that was preceded by years of public discussion and debate. The new Code, often called the "Law of Love" or "Code of Affections," passed by a two-thirds majority and includes the legalization of same-sex marriages.

As Minnie Bruce Pratt explained in Workers World in 2022 after the ratification: "The new Code legalizes same-sex marriage, allows same-sex couples to adopt children, promotes equal sharing of domestic responsibilities and extends labor rights (including pay) to those who care full time for children, the elderly or people with disabilities. The Code confirms the right to free abortion, paid family leave and assisted and surrogate pregnancies (but not for profit). It fights gender-based violence and expands the rights of children and grandparents." (workers.org/2022/09/66878)

This year's activities were focused in Havana, Cuba's capital, and Holguín. A reason that educational events took place in Holguín is that support for the new law in the referendum vote was lowest — 53.58% — in Holguín province. The Days were launched by the National Center for Sex Education (CENESEX), whose director, Dr. Mariela Castro Espín, pointed out: "We are living in times of uncertainty very similar to those years when Nazism and fascism were established in Europe. Before, it was only in Europe, and now it is globalized." This makes the Cuban initiative particularly important right now. (Resumen-english.org, May 6)

Among the academic, cultural, community and educational events were the Cuban Gala Against Homophobia, which took place on May 8 at the National Theater of Cuba; a Cuban Conga on May 10; a Community Fair for Family Well-being on May 15; a lecture by Dr. Castro on May 16 at the University of Medical Sciences in Holguín; and a Diversity Party on May 17.

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez stated: "The fight against homophobia and transphobia is part of the ideals of equity and justice of socialism in Cuba. Congratulations to those who have organized the days to educate and overcome prejudices and stereotypes. Love is already law. Let's make it prevail always." (en.cibercuba.com, May 17) □

PHOTO: RADIO ANGULO

The flags of Cuba and LGBTQIA+ Pride fly in Holguín, Cuba, for 'Days Against Homophobia and Transphobia,' May 5-18, 2025.

Cuba brought science, not scapegoating, to AIDS care

By Leslie Feinberg

The following edited article was first published on June 1, 2007, as Part 100 of Leslie Feinberg's Lavender and Red series. Feinberg, an acclaimed author and writer on transgender liberation, was a managing editor of Workers World newspaper. To read the complete Lavender and Red series go to: workers.org/book/lavender-red

Cuba tried to isolate the spread of AIDS as soon as the epidemic appeared in the island population, explained then Cuban Deputy Public Health Minister Héctor Terry in 1987. But Cuba did not try to socially isolate people with AIDS.

Terry stressed of Cubans living in the [AIDS] sanatoria [that was part of Cuba's free health care system]: "They visit their families at home, go out on pass; their families visit them, every day. Their friends can visit them." (Interview with Karen Wald, Guardian, Oct. 28, 1987)

Cuba attempted to quarantine the spread of the epidemic based on a scientific approach to a medical emergency, without using scapegoating to isolate people with AIDS.

In the U.S., AIDS activists had to fight a protracted battle to replace the bigoted label of "high-risk groups" with a rational understanding of "high-risk behaviors." Cuban medical workers and educators approached transmission scientifically.

Researchers Lourdes Arguelles and B. Ruby Rich observed in the autumn of 1987 that, "Cuba is unusual in publicizing the disease, not as a gay disease, but rather as a sexually transmitted disease regardless of specific sexual practice."

The primary route of AIDS transmission in Cuba was via international contact, including Cubans who had worked or studied abroad.

Of the first 99 people quarantined in 1986, only about 20 percent were believed to have contracted AIDS through same-sex contact.

Terry articulated this clearly: "We are carrying out our program by giving the public a lot of scientific information, speaking to them clearly about the modes of transmission and not generating phenomena such as homophobia or sexual repression.

"In some countries the mass media, for commercial reasons, generate those phenomena to sell more magazines or newspapers. But we don't need to sell more magazines or newspapers. We don't need to use AIDS to get people to watch more TV or to get some corporation to finance AIDS research. We don't need any of that here."

Terry summed up, "We start from the ideas that AIDS is transmitted not because of what you are but because of what you do, and therefore there's no reason to generate any kind of persecution or phobia against any patient."

Interviewer Karen Wald added: "Members of the gay community interviewed here said there has been no increase in homophobia or attacks on gays as a result of AIDS. They attribute this in part to the fact that the government has not singled out gays as carriers of the disease."

And unlike in the U.S., same-sex love was not against the law in Cuba.

Eyewitness to Cuban care

Cleo Manago was part of a delegation of 200 people from the U.S. who challenged Washington's travel ban to visit Cuba in August 1994. Manago wrote about his visit to an AIDS sanatorium in an article entitled "Cuba, from a Black, Male, Same-Gender-Loving Perspective."

"The widely reported rumors and articles on AIDS concentration camps in Cuba are out of context and pure anti-Cuba propaganda," Manago stated. "I visited Cuba's largest AIDS sanatorium and was taken aback by the humane, considerate, intuitive and life affirming approach to care taken by this center.

"The sanatorium was similar to a large housing complex where all who chose to live there had 24-hour health care, the option of having family members, even a dog or a cat stay with them. Same-gender-loving and heterosexual couples living together at the complex is a common occurrence.

"I asked people living there about the conditions in which they live. None were happy about having HIV or AIDS but all were very appreciative of the care they received. Many who could go home if they wanted chose to stay where they were guaranteed prepared food, a comfortable home and prompt medical attention. This particular center offered ambulatory care for those with jobs or who wanted to continue with school. To my knowledge there is nothing similar in the USA."

Manago concluded, "The main problem people with AIDS faced was the difficulty in getting the medicines and treatments (pentamidine, bactrim, condoms, etc.) needed from other countries, due to the U.S. blockade of Cuba." (www.sonomacountyfreepress.com)

'Information without sensationalism'

Dr. Héctor Terry emphasized: "We are treating the patients medically to maintain their present state of good health. Every time some new information comes up in the scientific community, some new kind of drug or medicine, we try to find out if it could be useful in preventing the virus from becoming activated into a full-blown disease."

Terry added: "Information is reaching the public without any sensationalism, without creating any hysteria or panic. We haven't yet been using the mass media as much as we should; we think that's a deficiency in the program. We've been using state agencies and all the ministries a lot, organizing conferences for all the workers in certain ministries, especially those in the high-risk areas. We also utilize the health education program and the popular video centers throughout the country. We run videos and have doctors there to answer questions. We've used that a lot and many young people attend these.

"We're now preparing other activities with the mass organizations, the Committees to Defend the Revolution, student and women's organizations," he continued. "We are working with other scientific institutions in the country, which are providing invaluable assistance and we are looking at all possibilities anywhere in the world. We try to synthesize what is being done internationally.

Terry concluded: "I repeat that the method of quarantine in a sanatorium isn't permanent. It will be treated dialectically. We are studying the situation and when we see that it is not the correct solution, or that other possibilities offer themselves, we will act accordingly — always basing ourselves on scientific data. Otherwise we wouldn't be scientists."

Clearly quarantine in Cuba was a tactic at the moment the epidemic emerged, not a scientific principle.

Joseph Mutti wrote from Havana in June 1999: "The government undertook extensive efforts to learn more about transmission of the virus and to discover a cure. It wasn't until the early 1990s that officials felt enough was known to end the quarantine and focus on public information, education and prevention." ("Love and Honesty: The Dawn of Gay Rights," Resource Center of the Americas.org)

Cuba began an out-patient pilot reintegration project in 1993 that proved successful. (Denver Post)

Those who left the sanatoria received ambulatory care that included regular doctor's care, visits to specialists and dietary supplements — all free. (medicc.org)

However, the Denver Post concluded in February 2003, "Today, 48 percent of those who are HIV-positive or have AIDS choose to live in the 16 sanatoriums around Cuba." □

Nakba Day honors 77 years of Palestine's resistance

By Betsey Piette

On May 15, 1948, British imperialists withdrew from Palestine. They had assumed a mandate over the territories after defeating the Ottoman Empire in World War I. The evening before, David Ben-Gurion, President of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, declared Israel's statehood and independence.

The new Zionist State of Israel then began its brutal removal of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian people from their rightful lands. Seventy-seven years later, the ongoing Nakba (the Catastrophe) has resulted in an estimated 4 million Palestinians being relegated to refugee status. At least 78% of their lands have been confiscated by a racist, settler-colonial occupation reminiscent of apartheid South Africa and the wholesale theft of the Indigenous Americas. This ongoing displacement, including the genocide in Gaza, continues today with beatings, massacres, starvation and jailings of Palestinians — with U.S. backing in the billions of dollars.

The Palestinian people continue to carry out a heroic resistance with strikes, protests, boycotts and an armed struggle inside Israel and in the Occupied Territories, especially Gaza and the West Bank. The Nakba was not just a singular event. Today we are still living with the effects of the Nakba.

This year, during the week of May 12-19, global protests commemorate the 77th anniversary of Nakba.

Boston, May 15, 2025. WW PHOTO: STEVE KIRSCHBAUM

Philadelphia, May 15, 2025. WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

The **Boston** Coalition For Palestine (BCFP) commemorated Nakba Day on May 15 with daylong Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) actions that targeted the Israeli consulate and the global transportation giant Maersk. Chanting "Evict Israeli war criminals!" BCFP protesters picketed the downtown Boston offices of the Israeli consulate during its morning open hours.

This nest of internationally "wanted" war criminals at 20 Park Plaza has been hidden, signless, for decades among other high-end tenants on upper floors of a plush Saunders Real Estate Group building, adjacent to the swank Park Plaza Hotel.

BCFP demonstrators regrouped by the hundreds in the afternoon outside the Kendall Square/MIT subway station in Cambridge to demand that the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) end its collaboration with Danish international shipping giant Maersk.

Maersk has shipped millions of tons of military cargo to Israel in support of its brutal genocide in Palestine. Corporate executives of Maersk, ExxonMobil, Walmart and Uber Freight evacuated a MIT-sponsored conference in the Royal Sonesta Hotel when pro-Palestine supporters led by the Palestinian Youth Movement and Palestinian House of New England marched to the hotel and set up a militant picket line outside.

Nakba actions in **Philadelphia** started in the early morning of May 15 with a banner drop over a bridge above a major city expressway. A late afternoon protest was held outside weapons manufacturer Day & Zimmermann corporate headquarters on Spring Garden Street where an estimated 100 demonstrators rallied to demand that the genocide profiteer be shut down!

The privately owned munitions company, with revenues of $2.7 billion in 2023, is the sole purveyor to Israel of three of the most frequently used munitions in the ongoing genocide in Gaza — M795 155mm tank shells, M107 high explosive projectiles and M830A1 Heat 120mm cartridges. The company has made billions in profits by selling Israel the ammunition used to kill and maim tens of thousands of Palestinian children and their families.

Organized by Philadelphia Students for Justice in Palestine and supported by several other groups, the rally called on people walking and driving by to tell the company that they are not welcome in this neighborhood or anywhere else in Philadelphia. As speakers continued to explain what was happening with the genocide in Gaza and Day & Zimmermann's role, more people came out to listen. One was a worker at a Dunkin Donuts next to the company's office building who expressed outrage upon learning what the company did.

In a demonstration on May 18, over 300 people marched from City Hall to the Art Museum steps.

Buffalo, May 15, 2025 WW PHOTO: ELLIE DORRITIE

On Nakba Day in **Buffalo**, New York, on May 15, dozens of community members came out in support of the Palestinian resistance and in opposition to Israeli Occupation Forces' ongoing genocide in Gaza. While the demonstration did bring on some opposition from drivers-by and the occasional heckler, the majority of drivers and pedestrians happily collected pamphlets or honked their horns in support. A number even joined in, despite having had no prior knowledge of the event.

The busy street corner action included demonstrators from Workers World Party, State University of New York Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (SUNY BDS) and University at Buffalo Young Democratic Socialists of America (UB YDSA). They came together to chant against the fascist Israeli regime and to remember the Nakba.

Local activists held a Red Line procession from the **Santa Fe** Plaza to a rally at the Railyard in Santa Fe, New Mexico, May 15, to protest Israeli genocide in occupied Palestine. Railyard pedestrians were leafletted with a full color brochure: "The Nakba Never Ended."

Local Indigenous and Palestinian speakers drew parallels between their experiences under settler colonialism. Speakers represented the Santa Fe Ad Hoc Committee on Palestine, Santa Feans for Justice in Palestine, the Olive Tree Campaign and Youth United for Climate Crisis Action (YUCCA). Young Palestinians sang and led the crowd in chants, accompanied by a drummer.

The event, called by the Santa Fe Ad Hoc Committee on Palestine and Santa Feans for Justice in Palestine, ended with video displayed on the Railyard water tower after sunset.

Steve Gillis, Joe Piette, Alex Quinn, Ellie Dorritie, Steve Kirshbaum and S. Hedgecoke contributed to this article.

Philadelphia, May 15, 2025. WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Sante Fe, May 15, 2025. WW PHOTO: S. HEDGECOKE

WW STATEMENT

Shootings in D.C.

U.S.-Israeli genocide in Gaza is the source of all violence — resistance is justified

When evaluating the May 21 shooting in Washington, D.C., the past 19 months of Israeli aggression throughout West Asia and especially its slaughter of the civilian population of Gaza with hundreds of thousands of people now facing starvation must be front and center. In those 19 months, despite massive opposition across the U.S. and internationally, both the Democrat and the Republican administrations continued to arm this genocide and aggressively target those who protest.

We in Workers World Party believe that organizing for collective resistance is the most effective weapon against the daily violence of imperialism. But we should never separate ourselves from those who take an action that they are driven to carry out, regardless of the personal cost to themselves. This includes the killing of two Israeli Embassy employees, allegedly by Elias Rodriguez on May 21.

It is understandable that, like Aaron Bushnell did with his self-sacrifice over a year ago, others would be moved to take their own action in the hope of stopping these horrific U.S.-Israeli war crimes.

U.S. imperialism is a completely violent, repressive and brutal system. U.S. wars, invasions and occupations are responsible for the death of millions — in Korea, Vietnam, Central and South America, in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya, in Yugoslavia and Ukraine in Europe and relentlessly for decades in Palestine, with the Israeli state as the willing killer.

The intentional violence of strangulating U.S. sanctions has threatened economic ruin to more than 40 countries, including almost all of the countries of West Asia — Palestine, Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Iran — and to Afghanistan and across Africa to Libya, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Mali, Zimbabwe, to Cuba, Nicaragua, Venezuela and many others.

The U.S. imperialist state also exercises this violence within its borders. The U.S. today has the world's largest prison population, on average three police murders every day and raids and round-ups of migrants — all while criminalizing and threatening to shut down every form of public mass opposition.

U.S. imperialism is the main funder of and provides the most arms to the horrific Zionist genocide we see daily on our screens.

You reap what you sow!

Acts of resistance, even individual acts, are inevitable and deserve support and defense, not lectures against individual violence in the midst of this genocidal, massive destruction.

The two slain employees of the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C., Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Lynn Milgrim, were official representatives of the Israeli state. They are accountable for its genocide. While the corporate media practically presented the two as lovers of peace, they were fervent defenders of the non-stop Zionist violence in Palestine.

Lischinsky, a Christian Zionist and German citizen, enlisted in the Israel Occupation Forces. He has published tweets on X attempting to justify Israeli mass starvation, targeting of children and bombing hospitals, schools and U.N. convoys in Gaza. In other words, he cheered on the genocide.

Elias Rodriguez stated in a manifesto explaining his act of political protest, "The atrocities committed by Israelis against Palestine defy description and defy quantification." He shouted, "Free Palestine!" at the scene. (For Rodriguez's statement, see **workers.org/?p=85786**)

All acts of resistance to the genocide in Gaza, a genocide exposed to the world, deserve to be defended by the movement as a whole.

Let's focus all attention on the source of the violence — U.S. imperialism and its violent proxy force, Zionism. ☐

WORKERS WORLD ☆ *editorial*

Break the siege on humanitarian aid to Gaza!

In its ongoing genocidal campaign against the Palestinian people, Israel used drones May 2 to attack the unarmed Conscience (aka Al-Dameer), a Freedom Flotilla Coalition ship. The ship's crew and passengers were attempting to transport tons of humanitarian aid to Gaza when the ship was attacked in international waters near Malta, an island country located just south of Sicily.

The aid included food, water, fuel, medical supplies and other vital necessities denied to the people of Gaza for the past two months by the U.S.- backed Zionist regime's sudden end of the ceasefire agreement in early March and its continuous horrific blockade of aid to Gaza.

Israel has used starvation as a weapon to force the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian people from their stolen homeland. Incarcerated Palestinians have also been subjected to starvation as a form of torture and death.

In 2010, the Israelis bombed the Mavi Marmara Flotilla Coalition ship that left Türkiye with similar aid for occupied Palestine and murdered nine Turkish activists and wounded over two dozen. Fortunately, there were no casualties among the activists representing 21 countries on the Conscience even though the ship was disabled. Greta Thunberg, the well-known climate change activist, was one of 40 people waiting to board the ship in Malta before the attack.

Coalition activists issued the following statement: "Israeli ambassadors must be summoned and answer to violations of international law, including the ongoing blockade and the bombing of our civilian vessel in international waters." (The Guardian, May 2)

A number of Palestinian resistance and faction groups condemned the attack as an act of terrorism and a blatant violation of international law. The Hamas-Islamic Resistance Movement stated that a full-blown famine has emerged in Gaza.

The fascistic Zionist regime has periodically blocked humanitarian aid to Gaza since the Al-Aqsa Flood on Oct. 7, 2023, claiming Hamas will divert the aid to its fighters. This is a bald-faced lie. The aim of the Benjamin Netanyahu regime is to rid Gaza and the West Bank of as many Palestinian civilians as possible, including children, annex the land and expand its illegal settlements into Lebanon and Syria. Israel continues to mercilessly bomb the Syrian capital of Damascus .

More anti-imperialist actions required

No matter how many countless war crimes this murderous Zionist regime and its main imperialist supporter, the United States, commit against the Palestinian people, Israel's days are numbered. Israel has become the number one global pariah. Even within occupied Tel Aviv, Jewish, Palestinian and Christian peoples, numbering 10,000, held a rally recently carrying the photos of murdered Palestinian children and calling for the end of the genocide. Unlike in earlier demonstrations, not one Israeli flag was visible.

Famine in Rafah, in southern Gaza.

Young Israeli reservists are choosing to serve time in prison in ever-growing numbers rather than commit genocide in Gaza. The Israeli economy continues to tank, with the closing of businesses, international boycotts of its products and the sabotage of its shipping lanes in the Red and Mediterranean seas by Yemen's naval forces.

The global anti-imperialist movement, especially inside the U.S., must continue to heed the Palestinian Resistance's call for more direct actions to deepen its political solidarity with the liberation of Palestine.

Workers World wholeheartedly supports the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine's call for large freedom convoys from various continents to break the siege of Gaza in response to the attack on the Al-Dameer humanitarian ship.

Stop all attacks on humanitarian aid to Gaza!

From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free! ☐

Protest opposes high-tech genocide at Microsoft 'Build'

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

Palestine solidarity activists marched on Microsoft's annual "Build" conference in Seattle on May 19 to protest the company's role as a contractor with the Israeli military. The conference, which attracts developers and journalists from around the world to see Microsoft's latest products, was met with a loud and angry demonstration against the genocide taking place in Gaza.

Outside Microsoft 'Build' conference, Seattle, May 19, 2025. WW PHOTO: JIM MCMAHAN

The march was led by No Azure for Apartheid, which includes Microsoft workers who are fighting against the company's Azure (cloud computing system) and artificial intelligence technologies being used by the Israeli military to commit death and destruction in Palestine. No Azure for Apartheid and No Tech for Apartheid have protested Google and Amazon's use of the cloud to store intelligence data. The Israeli military is using Microsoft's technology to manage the population registry of Palestinians and for communication during airstrikes.

On the first day of the conference, May 18, two Microsoft workers disrupted Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella's keynote speech. One of the workers, Joe Lopez, asked, "How about you show how Israeli war crimes are powered by Azure?" (The Guardian, May 19)

The next day 200 people marched all around the Seattle Convention Center chanting, "Say it clear and say it loud! Microsoft get off the cloud!" One person was arrested when the group attempted to storm the entrance.

The May 19 protest was one of many to hit Microsoft this year. In March, No Azure for Apartheid protested a company event at Town Hall Seattle. In April, during Microsoft's 50th anniversary celebration, one worker disrupted a panel with CEO Nadella, former CEO Steve Balmer and founder Bill Gates. Another worker disrupted a speech by AI CEO Mustafa Suleyman.

Microsoft is the world's second-richest corporation with a market valuation of well over $2 trillion dollars. (The Motley Fool, May 1) Imperialist wars are fought to defend and extend capitalist interests, including Microsoft's.

No Azure for Apartheid's demands include: "End Microsoft's complicity with Israeli genocide by terminating all contracts with the Israeli military and government," and "Honor the demand of over 1,000 workers who signed a petition calling on Microsoft to immediately and publicly endorse a permanent ceasefire." (noazureforapartheid.com). ☐

Why are we named Workers World Party?

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

By Sara Flounders

This article is based on the talk Flounders made during Workers World Party's May 18 national meeting in New York City addressing the topics, "The decline of imperialism, the global class struggle today, the changing working class and the tasks of the party."

For comrade Sam Marcy, the founder of Workers World Party, his deepest concern was that workers here in the U.S. should always show solidarity with the working class in the oppressed and developing nations under attack by U.S. imperialism. He was determined that a communist party in the center of imperialism see the whole world in terms of class, that we act as partisans of the working class.

That is why we are named Workers World Party.

Imperialist war is capitalism's chief weapon capable of breaking class consciousness. It takes constant vigilance for the working class in the imperialist center to avoid being pulled in by social chauvinism, racism and war propaganda.

Sam Marcy wrote and spoke, again and again, on the importance of our party confronting imperialist war and showing full solidarity with countries facing U.S. attack, even if our numbers at the beginning are small and the action is a picket line or a street meeting.

He pushed us to build coalitions, especially to pull in organizations of the oppressed, workers' groups and community groups, to get resolutions from union locals. He stressed that we always look to the grassroots. If, however, we were unable to find partners, acting alone was usually preferable to doing nothing.

Workers World Party exists as a combat organization inside the working class in the U.S. to challenge this relentless war drive.

The same social democratic forces who applauded the disintegration of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in 1991 and heralded it as a new era of peace also celebrated the horrific setback in the Syrian Arab Republic in December 2024.

However, within Workers World Party there was no confusion on these imperialist offensives. Workers World Party said no! This is colonial reconquest.

Imperialism is the main enemy. Working class propaganda must always be directed against imperialism.

Like the Bolsheviks in Russia during World War I, we are for the defeat of our own ruling class, the defeat of this monstrous war machine.

There are no neutrals in WWP.

Our role, our tasks

Tell no lies! Claim no easy victories!

It would be presumptuous to assert we have a whole game plan for the coming period. We have a revolutionary, working-class orientation that will help us to hold together during a stormy, chaotic time here in the imperialist center.

Building a revolutionary political party is always an unfinished project. The class struggle is continually changing. New struggles and new social issues arise. What must remain consistent is the political orientation.

Discover the interests of the workers and that of the bosses. Find out the needs of the most oppressed and support them. Defend whoever is under immediate attack.

We want to recruit into the party the militants who are on the front line — the activists who identify with our class around the world and who have some confidence that they can and must pull workers here toward defending new layers of our class here and our class around the world.

We need those who are inclusive and see a role for themselves in linking issues and making a positive contribution. We need builders and organizers.

How can we be part of the workers' movement here, refuse to be cut off and yet challenge the trade union misleadership and compromisers?

We need to encourage within the party and recruit into WWP the most impassioned anti-imperialist activists who are not fearful of expressing solidarity with the Axis of Resistance and who embrace new areas of resistance that will unfold.

We especially want to draw in the activists who are attempting to raise revolutionary and anti-imperialist politics within their own communities, unions and campuses and connect it to concrete community issues.

Why can't imperialism reindustrialize?

U.S. imperialism is in an irreversible downward death spiral.

As Marxists we can explain the basis for this crisis and why we are sure that the "reindustrialization" Trump promises will never take place.

It is beyond the capacity of capitalism today.

The U.S. has already lost its industrial and economic dominance, and the dollar is no longer the unchallenged currency in international trade. Now far simpler forms of military technology have opened new opportunities for resistance.

Locally manufactured military technology in the hands of the resistance in the Global South is challenging the imperialist superpower and its global allies. Consider missiles, drones of Ansar Allah in Yemen and the weapons built in the tunnels of Gaza.

The imperialist system based on genocide, plunder, piracy, theft of land and labor and enslavement is based on eliminating all competition.

Imperialist hegemony depends on predatory trade and production relations, the world division of labor, control of modern technology, the control of world banking and, for the U.S., the central role of the dollar. All that guaranteed western hegemony is gone — or being severely challenged.

Now a fundamental change is underway.

Today's global economy takes a far higher level of planning. Individual billionaires and giant multinational corporations competing with each other are no match for organized cooperative national planning. It takes a socialist state to do this.

The capitalist class today faces the end of its era of global domination.

Defending socialist China today

The People's Republic of China's stunning level of technological and scientific development has changed everything. China has the world's largest economy in purchasing power parity (PPP), a measure of economic productivity and standard of living between countries.

Workers World Party's strongest political contribution is to explain its defense of China in terms of China being a socialist country. Using terms like multipolar, rising power and competing power fail to explain why China has increased influence and why it is such a fundamental threat to world imperialism.

In China, all the most profitable and essential industries are owned nationally, by the whole people, and operate under the guiding hand of a massive workers' party, a communist party over 100 million strong.

This socialist, planned structure allowed China to emerge from being a poor and weak, if populous, country into the powerhouse of today. Planning production nationally, rather than aiming to increase individual billionaire profit, is a far higher form of social and economic organization.

We have followed China and its incredible accomplishments since the world changing revolution of 1949 led by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). This must be a continuing focus.

As a workers' party in the center of imperialism, we are profoundly interested in this process. It is part of defending our class, the working class. ☐

WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

by Sara Flounders

"By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flounders sheds insight on how to stand up to the imperialist war machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity."

— Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann,
President, U.N. General Assembly, 2008-2009;
Foreign Minister of Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

Free download available at *workers.org/book/war-without-victory*.

Big budget robs poor, feeds rich

Continued from page 1

gender-oppressed people, LGBTQIA2S+ communities and workers who are disabled. It's the act of a racist, misogynist bigot!

The "big, beautiful budget bill" is Robin Hood in reverse. It robs from the poor to give to the rich. It will impoverish millions of people, mostly the lowest earners. It will harm the entire working class. Only rich capitalists will gain.

Add to this the downgrading of medical care as hospitals and clinics close from the lack of Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement. Small farmers who count on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) payments for food to find markets will go bankrupt.

Trump also said he would balance the budget. Another lie. The Congressional Budget Office said the bill's combination of tax breaks for the rich and brutal budget cuts for the not-wealthy will increase the budget deficit by $3.8 trillion between 2026 – 2034.

The American Federation of Teachers, which has been following this bill closely since it has a lot of provisions which will be used to attack public education, summed up its impact: "This bill would make Americans — particularly children and older people — sicker and poorer through a direct transfer of wealth to the rich. Seventy percent of the benefits will go to the top 5 percent at the expense of the bottom 40 percent."

Impulse truth

In the 1964 movie "Dr. Strangelove," while it displays dangers of a military pushing nuclear war, the villain is a scientist responsible for a doomsday weapon. He impulsively makes Nazi salutes. He can't stop himself.

Trump's buddy Elon Musk seems to have contracted a similar syndrome, and Trump himself seems to have caught a version of it. Speaking at a West Point graduation May 23, the president said: "The job of the U.S. Armed Forces is not to host drag shows, to transform foreign cultures, but to spread democracy to everybody around the world **at the point of a gun**." (Mother Jones, May 24, our emphasis)

Along with his gratuitous attack on the trans community and his use of the word "democracy," Trump did blurt out a partial truth. The U.S. Armed Forces' job is to use the $1 trillion a year in the Pentagon budget to allow U.S. billionaires to pillage people around the globe, at gunpoint.

An alternate budget

Bloomberg (May 5) reported that the so-called Golden Dome in Trump's military budget could cost $542 billion, although Trump claimed $175 billion. He often lies.

Press TV, a news agency based in Iran, did the math to explain what U.S. workers, who pay most of the taxes, are losing with that military budget. The $542 billion could: "Fund tuition-free public colleges for seven years; end homelessness many times over; fully implement universal pre-K and childcare for decades; provide $1,000 a month basic income to over 45 million [U.S.] Americans for a year."

If Congress passes Trump's cruel, vicious bill, the working class must reverse it. The ruling class, through the MAGA regime, has targeted all workers, who must mobilize to turn back this assault. Unlike the billionaires, the workers, who include nearly all of us, won't be robbing anyone. They will simply be stopping a robbery and returning the wealth to those who produced it. ☐

During White House meeting

Racist Trump ambushes South African president

By Monica Moorehead

No rational human being should ever be shocked by anything Donald Trump says or does — from when he first occupied the White House in 2017 to now in 2025. But even those among his capitalist backers were stunned by his public, racist treatment of South African President Cyril Ramaphosa during his visit to the White House on May 21.

In an effort to humiliate President Ramaphosa, Trump had the gall to accuse him and the opposition Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) of "white genocide" against farmers in South Africa. The EFF is leading a nationwide campaign of "Land Back" for landless Black South Africans.

During the White House meeting, Trump showed pictures and videos supposedly of these farmers being attacked, killed and then buried. Within a day, even the U.S. corporate media showed that all of this so-called evidence was falsified.

Landless South African movement protest led by Economic Freedom Fighters.

These Boer farmers — who had not after all been killed and buried — were the same who come from families that seized and occupied the best arable lands stolen from the overwhelmingly indigenous Black population dating back to the late 19th century. This was the tragic period when Boers, who had emigrated from the Netherlands, along with the British colonizers, came to power with extreme violence and superexploitation of the people's labor and their precious resources. The same wealthy farmers tied to the fascist apartheid regime were finally ousted in 1994.

Economic inequality has worsened

Although legal apartheid was abolished in 1994, leading to the election of South Africa's first Black president, Nelson Mandela, there has been no fundamental change in this economic relationship. To the contrary, today farmers of European origin constitute 8% of the general population and control 72% of private lands. Compare this to Black South Africans who constitute 80% of the population and only control between 4% and 10% of private lands.

South Africa is the most industrialized country on the African continent but today has an unemployment rate of over 32%, with the highest proportion of unemployed among women and youth. International corporations such as Coca-Cola, Mercedes Benz and Google dominate the economy along with gold, diamonds and platinum mining industries such as De Beers, Anglo American and Exxaro Resources, just to name a few.

South Africa's economy is described as being "mixed," but in reality, the majority of the population endure under neo-colonial conditions, similar to the rest of Africa.

During the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings held in South Africa in 1996, the apartheid regime's crimes against the South African people were put on full display. Those white South Africans, including the police and military — who admitted to committing crimes against humanity — were given amnesty as a concession to help create a government led by the African National Congress.

Once the ANC lost a majority of its parliamentary seats in 2024, a coalition government of other parties was set up, including one that represents the Afrikaans speaking white population.

Today, while Trump is targeting the vast majority of migrants, documented and undocumented, with random arrests without warrants, deportations and jailings, he just allowed 59 white South Africans into the U.S. on May 12 with refugee status for being "victims of racial discrimination."

More punishment for South Africa

Defending privileged white farmers is not the only reason Trump has targeted South Africa. One cannot forget on Dec. 29, 2023, that South Africa was the first country that brought a lawsuit against the U.S.-backed Zionist regime of Israel to the International Court of Justice for its genocide in Gaza. This act drew ire first from the "Genocide Joe" administration and then from the Trump regime.

Trump announced tariffs on South Africa on April 2, a 30% tax on goods before implementing a 90-day pause. Also, the drastic cuts in the controversial U.S. Aid to International Development will severely restrict HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs, basic education and gender-based violence initiatives in South Africa.

The white supremacist Trump — along with his crony in crime, South African-born billionaire Elon Musk — are working hand in hand with corporate bosses to keep the South African masses in abject poverty and subjugation. The same repressive state apparatus still remains intact to repress the masses in order to maintain private property relations.

In "South Africa: Which road to liberation? A Marxist view," a 1993 pamphlet, this author wrote the following: "Nowhere has a successful socialist revolution been realized without the total intervention of the masses smashing the old state of the oppressive ruling class and setting up their own state to defend and help consolidate a working-class democracy where the means of production are collectively owned and not based on private property. This is the first step to building a true socialist society where racism, poverty and exploitation are wiped out through a continuous process."

The writer was an invited observer to the first unbanned African National Congress conference held in Durban, South Africa, in 1991.

Class struggle is 'our only option'

By Martha Grevatt

This article is based on the talk Grevatt made during Workers World Party's May 18 national meeting in New York City addressing the topics, "The decline of imperialism, the global class struggle today, the changing working class and the tasks of the party."

In 1848 Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels wrote: "The advance of industry, whose involuntary promoter is the bourgeoisie, replaces the isolation of the laborers, due to competition, by the revolutionary combination, due to association. The development of Modern Industry, therefore, cuts from under its feet the very foundation on which the bourgeoisie produces and appropriates products. What the bourgeoisie therefore produces, above all, are its own grave diggers. Its fall and the victory of the proletariat are equally inevitable."

Workers World Party still believes that. Moreover, we believe it to be essential. Absolutely necessary is the Marxist understanding that, first, the relationship between the working class and the capitalist class is inherently antagonistic; second, that it is inevitable and necessary that the working class and oppressed peoples bring about the downfall of the capitalist mode of production, which is based on the exploitation of labor by capital.

We welcome any and all struggles against the extreme right program of Trump, Musk and their cohorts. But any rhetoric against the billionaires or the "oligarchs" without an orientation to actually getting rid of them is just empty rhetoric. As long as they exist as a class, all of the ills associated with them will exist. And it will get worse under this stage of capitalist decline. As our party's First Secretary Larry Holmes said in his pre-conference document: "This requires us to clarify that our struggle against the billionaire class is a struggle to end the capitalist system."

Anyone who professes to be a leader of the working class, including labor union leaders, must possess this understanding. Otherwise they are not leaders but misleaders. Without this understanding even the most militant and sincere union leaders — they are few in number — can only achieve so much, and they, along with the members of their unions, will find themselves in a constant battle. They will constantly be fighting with the owners of the means of production just to hold onto what they already won previously.

The ruling class understood the danger to itself posed by a class conscious leadership of the unions. The 1947 Taft Hartley Act banned Communist Party members from holding union office. Social democratic union leaders did the capitalists' bidding when they purged communists and socialists and expelled 11 left-led unions from the Congress of Industrial Organizations. Organized labor was left ideologically hamstrung after the red purges of the McCarthy era.

The current stripe of class collaborationist union leaders is absolutely incapable of making any meaningful strides on behalf of the working class.

In the past, material conditions allowed the capitalists to grant concessions to labor in the interest of class peace. But those days are over. The ruling class is out for blood. The only way the bourgeoisie can compensate itself for the worldwide decline of imperialism is by squeezing the workers — here and in other countries — to the max.

To quote Comrade Holmes again: "The wealth that U.S. imperialism can no longer extract from robbing the world has forced the ruling class to make up the difference by deepening the exploitation and oppression of the workers at home. ... The situation in the U.S., and the inextricably connected world situation, will catalyze the workers and set them on a new course, an independent course, a class struggle course."

Class struggle isn't just the right course, it is our only option.

But class struggle isn't limited to struggles over economic or workplace issues. First and foremost, class struggle is about uniting our class in the fight against racism and national oppression, along with fighting against misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, xenophobia and all the special oppressions that impact wide swathes of humanity. It means fighting imperialist war and superexploitation all over the world, which yield mega profits for the superrich.

Class struggle means solidarity with migrant workers. It means saying no to racist police brutality. Class struggle means supporting incarcerated workers — free them all! And it means supporting the Palestinian resistance!

Fascism is a form of capitalist rule. Imperialism is a stage of capitalism. To defeat fascism and imperialism, we must defeat capitalism.

A revolutionary party must be armed with a Marxist-Leninist theoretical foundation. The bourgeoisie has created its own grave diggers. But the proletariat will not bury the bourgeoisie until it understands that ending capitalism is its historic task. It won't happen without a revolutionary party. That was one of Lenin's key contributions to the advancement of Marxism — the need for a vanguard party.

On the one hand, we have to unite with other forces in a united front against fascism and imperialism. But at the same time, we need to build Workers World Party.

We need to build a party guided by the belief that the victory of workers and oppressed people is inevitable. We need to build a party guided by revolutionary optimism.

Build a workers' world! ☐

Malcolm X advocated for world revolution

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Monica Moorehead

By Monica Moorehead

This article is based on a talk given during a May 18 Workers World Party national discussion focused on "The decline of imperialism, the global class war today, the changing working class and the tasks of the party."

It is timely and appropriate to review heroic contributions made by Malcolm X that have stood the test of time on the centennial of his birth, May 19. His voice never became stagnant in exposing the conditions Black people faced under white supremacy. On the contrary, his charismatic talks reflected a dialectical process that led him to evolve as an internationalist towards a global class view in such a short life span.

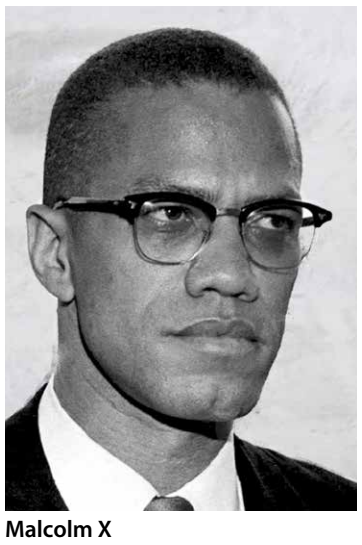
Malcolm X was a proponent of revolutionary Black nationalism. He preached that the only way that Black people would win national liberation was by any means necessary — be that armed self-defense, separation, etc. — and not any appeal to the "white power structure." He was a proponent of the right to self-determination for Black people.

He was heavily ostracized and demonized as advocating "violence" by the capitalist media, the mouthpiece of the ruling class. This demonization was an effort to pit two political currents of the Black Liberation Movement against each other — the armed, militant wing and the moderate, pacifist Civil Rights Movement wing.

Malcolm gave a talk nine days before his assassination in Rochester, New York, at a Methodist church. The talk was entitled "Not just an American problem but a world problem." He spoke about his trip to Mecca that occurred in 1964 when he visited various countries in West Asia (formerly called the Middle East), including refugee camps in Palestine, and also Africa. He met with several newly elected presidents representing the formerly colonized world, now the Global South.

He also spoke on how he was not allowed to travel to Paris, where he was scheduled to speak to mainly the West Indies and North African communities there to explain the commonality of the struggles of Black people everywhere as internal colonies within imperialist countries like the U.S. and France.

What stood out in this talk were his comments about a historic conference in Indonesia that took place almost a decade before his murder. That conference was the Bandung Asian-African conference held in April 1955, which just commemorated its 70th anniversary.



Malcolm X

In attendance were leaders from China, India, Egypt, Liberia, Sudan, the Gold Coast (now Ghana), Jordan, Iran, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Nepal, Pakistan and the Philippines. Altogether there were 29 leaders of countries representing billions of oppressed and working peoples who currently reside there. (This conference was held ten years before a CIA-orchestrated, bloody, right-wing coup resulting in a massacre of about a million Indonesian communists and revolutionaries.)

Significance of Bandung conference

Why bring up a historic gathering that took place 70 years ago? This conference gave birth to the Group of 77 or the G77 in 1964 and the Organization of African Unity in 1963, currently the African Union.

The roots of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) trade alliance as well as recent projects such as the BRICS Development Bank and the Bank of the South are important examples that can be traced back to the Bandung conference to break and weaken the economic dominance of Western imperialism to win independence.

Malcolm summed up the Bandung conference this way: "Back in 1955 in Indonesia, at Bandung, they had a conference of dark-skinned people. The people of Africa and Asia came together for the first time in centuries. They had no nuclear weapons, they had no air fleets, no navy. But they discussed their plight, and they found that there was one thing that all of us had in common — oppression, exploitation, suffering. And we had a common oppressor, a common exploiter." (www.southcentre.int)

So much has drastically changed over the past 70 years. Many of these same countries have their own armies, naval fleets and even nuclear weapons — all justifiably necessary to defend their sovereignty against imperialism. There was no Hamas, PFLP or DFLP 70 years ago, but today the Resistance against U.S.-backed Zionism is on the front lines of the struggle against imperialism, including white settler colonialism.

Look at heroic Yemen, one of the poorest countries, armed with advanced weaponry and challenging the most powerful imperialist navy in the world — the U.S. — to show solidarity with the people of Gaza. And of course there are the growing anti-imperialist struggles in Africa, with Burkina Faso and the Sahel countries kicking out French imperialist forces.

A vision to build anti-racist unity

What made Malcolm such a danger in the eyes of the bourgeois media and the ruling class was his expanding anti-imperialist influence towards world revolution against capitalism and imperialism and the leading role the Global South played at that time.

Malcolm wanted to connect the Black struggle inside the U.S. to world revolution. He paved the way in showing his willingness to grow politically as the global class struggle intensified and spread like wildfire over the last decade of his life.

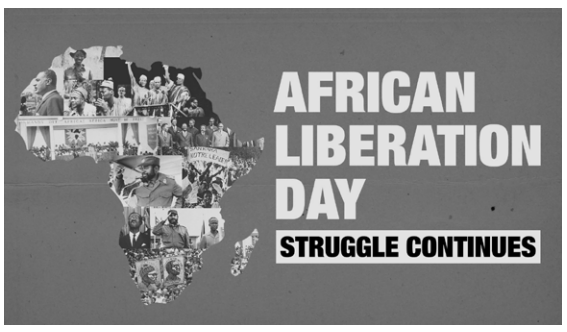
Malcolm had a vision to establish an Organization of Afro-American Unity to bring demands to the United Nations to attract more global attention to Black people living under violent white supremacy no matter where they lived.

To achieve this goal, Malcolm attempted to create a united front with the Civil Rights Movement, despite any political differences with its leaders like Dr. King, under the umbrella of the OAAU. And he did this without compromising his revolutionary principles. Malcolm X believed in revolution, not reformism or reform of the capitalist system but for the liberation not only of Black people but of all oppressed peoples. ❐

The roots of African Liberation Day

By Monica Moorehead

The following article was first posted on workers.org on May 24, 2024. The theme for African Liberation Day 2025 is "Africa for Africans: Revolutionary Pan-Africanist Unity Across Borders in the Battle for Socialism Against Imperialism." Events are taking place in cities throughout Africa, Europe, Canada and the United States. Go to ***africanliberationday.net*** *for more information. This article has been updated.*



The origin of African Liberation Day is rooted in 1958 when the first elected prime minister of Ghana, the great Pan-Africanist and socialist leader Kwame Nkrumah, convened the First Conference of Independent States held in Accra, Ghana. That conference was attended by eight independent African states.

Out of this gathering, April 15 was declared "Africa Freedom Day" to mark the annual progress of the national liberation movements to emancipate themselves from centuries-long foreign domination and superexploitation that began with the transatlantic slave trade. Two years later, 17 African countries won their independence, and 1960 was proclaimed the Year of Africa.

In his 1961 speech "I Speak of Freedom," Nkrumah stated: "For centuries, Europeans dominated the African continent. The white man arrogated to himself the right to rule and to be obeyed by the non-white; his mission, he claimed, was to 'civilize' Africa. Under this cloak, the Europeans robbed the continent of vast riches and inflicted unimaginable suffering on the African people.

"It is clear that we must find an African solution to our problems and that this can only be found in African unity. Divided we are weak; united, Africa could become one of the greatest forces for good in the world." (marxists.org)

On May 25, 1963, over 30 African leaders held a historic summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to create the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The OAU represented the independent struggles on the African continent against colonialism, neocolonialism and imperialism and for a united Africa, both in the past and in the present. The OAU then declared May 25 "African Freedom Day" to be "African Liberation Day (ALD)." These demonstrations have historically been held on the last Saturday in May.

The first ALD was held in the U.S. on Saturday, May 27, 1972, in Washington, D.C., where tens of thousands of mainly people of African descent rallied on the National Mall to connect with the struggles throughout the African diaspora.

On May 24, 2024, on the 61st anniversary of the founding of the OAU, the major theme of ALD was "Same Struggle: Smash Settler Colonialism in Occupied Palestine, Africa, the Americas and Oceania!" Protests took place in Africa, Washington, D.C., and elsewhere worldwide.

The 2024 ALD had a special meaning, not only because of the unprecedented global solidarity with the Palestinian resistance against the U.S.-backed Israeli genocide in Gaza and the West Bank but also because of the ouster of French colonial troops in Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso in 2023. The Nigerien government officially demanded that U.S. troops be expelled from their soil on March 16, 2024.

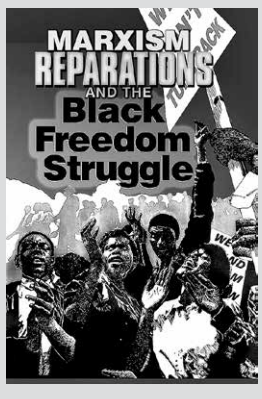
Despite the decades-long struggle against imperialism, including the debt crisis imposed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the African masses continue to fight back for their sovereignty and right to self-determination.

African Liberation Day declares that African people are one united people despite any artificial borders established by their colonial oppressors.

The writer at the age of 20 attended the first African Liberation Day held in Washington, D.C., in 1972.

Marxism, Reparations and the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper. Edited by Monica Moorehead.



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Connecting our struggles in global anti-fascist defense

By Mairead Skehan Gillis

Excerpts from a talk the author, a member of the Boston branch of Workers World Party, gave virtually on May 20, 2025, to the African International Anti-fascist Forum hosted by the Venezuelan Embassy in Angola and other Venezuelan Embassies across Africa.

Perhaps never before in world history has U.S. capitalism and its global imperialist maneuvers been such a threat to world peace as now, when capitalism is in a constant dead-end crisis and imperialism is being overtaken by an increasingly multipolar world, with the People's Republic of China leading the way. A dying beast can be especially dangerous and will tend toward fascist methods, as we are witnessing with the Trump administration. Here we believe we have a special obligation to work to defeat our own government, the source of the rising fascist tendency.

In thinking about the importance of this African International Anti-fascist Forum, I am reminded of the phrase from the labor movement that I've grown up hearing: "An injury to one is an injury to all!"

The attacks that working and oppressed peoples face in any part of the world are attacks on all of us, because our struggles are all connected. Our movements are strongest when we develop unity against capitalist exploitation and the threats of fascism, against colonialism and imperialism, against racism, sexism, bigotry and poverty. We know who our billionaire, corporate enemies are who are upholding systems of oppression, and we also know that they are vastly outnumbered by the working classes across borders and struggles who make up the world's vast majority.

In the spirit of Simón Bolívar, Latin America's "Liberator," and former Angolan President Agostinho Neto, we fight for liberation for all by building a future that prioritizes human needs and the planet over corporate profit.

Mobilizations in the empire's core

I want to share with you all some of the recent mobilizations we have been involved in here in the imperial core.

In April we hosted a meeting in New York City at the Workers World Party office with women representatives of Venezuela, Nicaragua and Cuba to highlight the gains for women that are possible when a people's revolution is in place. We demand an immediate end to the U.S. blockade on Cuba, no U.S. sanctions on Nicaragua and U.S. hands off Venezuelan sovereignty and Venezuelan migrants.

WWP is also organizing across the country to defend immigrant communities and pro-Palestine student activists who are being kidnapped off the streets by Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) police in an attempt to sow terror and divide us. These blatant attacks on human rights are being carried out by the same administration that simultaneously slashes benefits and services for working people. What our communities need is money for jobs, health care and education, not police violence, cutbacks and deportations.

We can make this happen through the formation of a united front against fascism and imperialism — at home and globally — that brings more sectors of our class into the fightback movement.

The developments in Burkina Faso and the anti-colonial Alliance of Sahel States providing shining examples of this anti-fascist, anti-imperialist unity in action. We applaud the construction of a new era of cooperation based on sovereignty and prioritizing people's needs.

Ibrahim Traoré's bold acts to nationalize the country's resources for the benefit of his people, condemn the worldwide imperialist capitalist system and organize a regional bloc of countries to oppose colonialism make him a hero to African people and oppressed people around the world. They also make him an enemy of the imperialist ruling class. We wholeheartedly answer the call for solidarity in defense of the self-determination of the Sahel states as they break the chains of colonialism. U.S. hands off Ibrahim Traoré! AFRICOM and all U.S. military out of Africa!

Last week we organized a meeting in Boston on China demanding "No U.S. tariff war against China," "U.S. Navy out of the Pacific," and to honor the 80th anniversary of China's victory against fascist occupation. We commend the material support and solidarity that China shows to nations across the Global South while also constantly working to improve the conditions of its people at home. While the U.S. is building bombs, socialist China is building bridges, canals, railways and roads.

Palestine solidarity is essential

Finally, solidarity with Palestine and the Axis of Resistance is essential to our work as revolutionaries. If 80 years ago the Soviet Red Army was the peoples' compass, if 50 years ago the movement for liberation of Vietnam was the peoples' compass, today the compass is Palestine. Every day Palestine's liberation struggle is pulling more people toward the revolution against imperialism and settler colonialism. We are committed to intensify our acts of resistance here as we demand "End the genocide," "No war on Iran," "End all U.S. aid to Israel," "End the siege on Gaza" and "Full return of the land to its rightful keepers!"

As we are building an international movement against fascist threats, we are developing the working-class consciousness that is necessary for us to recognize our true power, show up for each other and construct the future for the people, by the people, that we know to be possible.

¡Hasta la victoria siempre! Until victory is won! ☐

China helps build Cuba's renewable energy sector

By Andrew Johnson

The island nation of Cuba has consistently struggled with one economic barrier above all others: the United States blockade, which has blocked all trade between U.S. companies and Cuba since 1962. This economic strangulation has been exacerbated since the collapse of the Soviet Union — Cuba's largest trading partner — in 1991.

The 1992 Torricelli Act, barring ships that dock in Cuba from docking in the U.S., and the 1996 Helms-Burton Act, halting U.S. trade with any country doing business with Cuba, both tightened the blockade.

Food shortages, rolling blackouts and lack of medical supplies have plagued Cuba as a result of these inhumane U.S. policies.

As the U.S. government continues to escalate its trade wars, countries around the world are increasingly considering alternatives to the U.S.-dominated financial system. States like Cuba, which have for decades suffered under U.S. imperialist hegemony, may now find new opportunities in a changing global economy.

In March, China donated solar panels to Cuba, adding 120 megawatts (MW) to the country's ailing electrical system. According to Cuba's official newspaper Granma, the panels were distributed to provinces most affected by regular blackouts: Artemisa, Granma, Guantánamo, Holguín, Las Tunas and Pinar del Río.

Chinese-made solar panels.

The Cuban government plans to transition its energy sector from fossil fuels to renewables, estimating that the country's solar parks will generate 2,000 MW by 2028. Cuba's Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment, Déborah Rivas Saavedra, called the project "a symbol of the close solidarity between the two nations." The Chinese ambassador to Cuba, Hua Xin, stated that the new solar parks will reduce fossil fuel consumption and decrease the severity of blackouts.

The reception ceremony for the new panels was held a few kilometers from the port of Mariel, Cuba's Special Economic Zone (ZEDM). The Mariel zone was constructed in 2013 to encourage foreign investment.

Since the creation of the ZEDM and China's Belt and Road Initiative, inaugurated the same year, China has become Cuba's largest trading partner. Mariel has bolstered trade relations between the two countries. The donation ceremony occurring so close to Mariel's port displays the significance of the growing solidarity between the two socialist states in the wake of a weakening U.S. empire.

Strong relations between Cuba and China should serve as an example to communists around the world who need to take strategic advantage of the declining U.S. empire and build anti-imperialist solidarity between the working classes of all countries. ☐

Farm workers union holds anti-ICE protest

By Keller Dekirk
Buffalo, N.Y.

Dozens of activists responded to a call by the United Farm Workers (UFW) for an emergency demonstration on May 2 at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention center in Batavia, New York, near Buffalo.

That morning ICE agents had stopped a bus carrying farmworkers to Lynne-Ette Farms in Kent, New York, and arrested several workers — targeting workers who had been engaged in union-building efforts through the UFW. The bus was owned and operated by Lynne-Ette Farms, and it is more than likely that the company used ICE as a means to intimidate its workers from unionizing.

Demonstrators stood at the gates of the detention facility to demand the release of the workers, as well as for the dismantling of the entire unjust U.S. immigration system. They chanted slogans like "No farms, no food!" "ICE, KKK, IDF, they're all the same!" and "Tear down the walls, free them all!"

The UFW is coordinating with the Volunteer Lawyers Project to provide support for the workers in their immigration cases and has stated that demonstrations will continue as needed.

Go to act.seiu.org/a/nyraid5225 to read the UFW press release and to sign up for future demonstrations with this campaign.

Batavia, New York, May 2, 2025. WW PHOTO: KELLER DEKIRK

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Hambre en Rafah, en el sur de Gaza.

¡Rompamos el asedio a la ayuda humanitaria a Gaza!

editorial

En su continua campaña genocida contra el pueblo palestino, Israel utilizó aviones no tripulados el 2 de mayo para atacar al desarmado Conscience (alias Al-Dameer), un barco de la Coalición de la Flotilla de la Libertad. La tripulación y los pasajeros del barco intentaban transportar toneladas de ayuda humanitaria a Gaza cuando el barco fue atacado en aguas internacionales cerca de Malta, un país insular situado justo al sur de Sicilia.

La ayuda incluía alimentos, agua, combustible, suministros médicos y otras necesidades vitales negadas a la población de Gaza durante los dos últimos meses por el repentino fin del acuerdo de alto el fuego a principios de marzo por parte del régimen sionista respaldado por Estados Unidos y su continuo y horrible bloqueo de la ayuda a Gaza.

Israel ha utilizado el hambre como arma para forzar el desplazamiento de cientos de miles de palestinos de su patria robada. Los palestinos encarcelados también han sido sometidos a la inanición como forma de tortura y muerte.

En 2010, los israelíes bombardearon el barco de la Coalición de la Flotilla Mavi Marmara que partió de Türkiye con ayuda similar para la Palestina ocupada y asesinaron a nueve activistas turcos e hirieron a más de dos docenas. Afortunadamente, no hubo víctimas entre los activistas que representaban a 21 países en el Conciencia a pesar de que el barco quedó inutilizado. Greta Thunberg, la conocida activista contra el cambio climático, era una de las 40 personas que esperaban para embarcar en Malta antes del ataque.

Los activistas de la coalición emitieron la siguiente declaración: «Los embajadores israelíes deben ser convocados y responder por las violaciones del derecho internacional, incluido el bloqueo en curso y el bombardeo de nuestro buque civil en aguas internacionales». (The Guardian, 2 de mayo)

Varios grupos de resistencia y facciones palestinas condenaron el ataque como un acto de terrorismo y una flagrante violación del derecho internacional. El Movimiento de Resistencia Islámica de Hamás declaró que en Gaza se ha declarado una hambruna en toda regla.

El régimen fascista sionista ha bloqueado periódicamente la ayuda humanitaria a Gaza desde el diluvio de Al-Aqsa del 7 de octubre de 2023, alegando que Hamás desviará la ayuda hacia sus combatientes. Esto es una mentira descarada. El objetivo del régimen de Benjamín Netanyahu es librar a Gaza y Cisjordania del mayor número posible de civiles palestinos, incluidos niños, anexionarse la tierra y ampliar sus asentamientos ilegales al Líbano y Siria. Israel sigue bombardeando sin piedad la capital siria de Damasco.

Se necesitan más acciones antiimperialistas

No importa cuántos innumerables crímenes de guerra cometan contra el pueblo palestino este régimen sionista asesino y su principal apoyo imperialista, Estados Unidos, los días de Israel están contados. Israel se ha convertido en el paria mundial número uno. Incluso dentro de la ocupada Tel Aviv, judíos, palestinos y cristianos, en número de 10.000, celebraron recientemente una manifestación portando las fotos de los niños palestinos asesinados y pidiendo el fin del genocidio. A diferencia de manifestaciones anteriores, no se veía ni una sola bandera israelí.

Cada vez son más los jóvenes reservistas israelíes que eligen cumplir condena en prisión antes que cometer un genocidio en Gaza. La economía israelí sigue hundiéndose, con el cierre de empresas, boicots internacionales a sus productos y el sabotaje de sus rutas marítimas en los mares Rojo y Mediterráneo por las fuerzas navales de Yemen.

El movimiento antiimperialista mundial, especialmente dentro de Estados Unidos, debe seguir atendiendo el llamamiento de la Resistencia Palestina a favor de más acciones directas para profundizar su solidaridad política con la liberación de Palestina.

Mundo Obrero apoya incondicionalmente el llamamiento del Frente Popular para la Liberación de Palestina para que grandes convoyes de libertad de varios continentes rompan el asedio de Gaza en respuesta al ataque contra el barco humanitario Al-Dameer.

¡Detengan todos los ataques contra la ayuda humanitaria a Gaza!

Del río al mar, ¡Palestina será libre! ☐

Buque dañado de la Coalición Flotilla de la Libertad de Conciencia

EE.UU. aún debe reparaciones a Vietnam

El imperialismo estadounidense sufrió su segunda derrota histórica el 30 de abril de 1975 a manos del pueblo vietnamita cuando las tropas estadounidenses huyeron en helicópteros desde las azoteas de los edificios de Saigón, ocupada por Estados Unidos. Un año después del derrocamiento del régimen títere estadounidense de Vietnam del Sur, Vietnam del Sur y del Norte se reunificaron. Saigón pasó a llamarse Ciudad Ho Chi Minh, en honor del gran presidente comunista de Vietnam del Norte, y Hanoi se convirtió en la capital del país unido.

Esta guerra estadounidense no declarada de 25 años fue iniciada por el presidente Harry Truman cuando autorizó un Grupo Asesor de Asistencia Militar para ayudar al ejército francés que invadió Vietnam por segunda vez a finales de 1946 y restableció el dominio colonial.

El ejército guerrillero vietnamita expulsó a los colonizadores franceses del norte en 1954 tras una batalla decisiva en Dien Bien Phu. Washington envió asesores al régimen títere del Sur y, de 1964 a 1968, el presidente Lyndon B. Johnson amplió la guerra, enviando más de medio millón de soldados en una ocasión.

De 1962 a 1975, unos tres millones de vietnamitas, de una población de más de 46 millones de personas, murieron en la guerra genocida, junto con más de 58.000 soldados estadounidenses. Washington amplió la guerra en parte para contrarrestar la creciente fuerza de la revolución china.

Junto con la tremenda pérdida de vidas de las tropas estadounidenses que llevaron a cabo masacres de civiles, así como de los combatientes vietnamitas, Vietnam también fue víctima de un ecocidio. Está bien documentado que las Fuerzas Aéreas estadounidenses arrojaron más de cuatro millones de toneladas de bombas sobre las zonas mayoritariamente rurales de Vietnam del Sur.

Un tanque norvietnamita derriba la puerta del palacio presidencial survietnamita el 30 de abril de 1975.

Muchas bombas sin explotar siguen amenazando hoy las vidas y las extremidades de la población. Además, se utilizaron 400.000 toneladas de napalm no sólo para mutilar a la población civil, sino también para envenenar el suelo, el agua y el aire.

Las fuerzas estadounidenses utilizaron el Agente Naranja, un herbicida mortal, para destruir la vegetación y defoliar los bosques en un esfuerzo por desenmascarar a los combatientes vietnamitas de liberación. El herbicida contiene la sustancia química tóxica dioxina, relacionada con el cáncer y los defectos de nacimiento. Aún hoy, tres millones de vietnamitas, incluidos niños, padecen graves y debilitantes problemas de salud atribuidos a este veneno mortal. El uso de estas armas inhumanas no sólo constituyó un crimen de guerra de Estados Unidos contra el pueblo vietnamita, sino que perjudicó a los soldados no preparados.

Una conmemoración agridulce

Mientras todo el país unificado de más de 100 millones de habitantes se prepara para el 50º aniversario de «La Liberación del Sur y el Día de la Reunificación Nacional» el 30 de abril en Ciudad Ho Chi Minh, la administración Trump ha disuadido enérgicamente a los diplomáticos estadounidenses -incluido Marc Knapper, embajador de Estados Unidos en Vietnam- de asistir a este acontecimiento histórico.

El hecho de que Vietnam se impusiera a la superpotencia estadounidense en esta guerra genocida y siga prosperando es un vergonzoso recordatorio de la derrota sufrida por el ejército más poderoso del mundo a manos de un ejército popular decidido y unido dirigido por el Frente de Liberación Nacional en el Vietnam del Sur ocupado y el ejército norvietnamita.

Ninguna maniobra diplomática arrogante de Washington puede borrar la importancia histórica de esta victoria. Tampoco puede hacerlo la declaración de Trump de un enorme arancel de más del 40% sobre los bienes producidos en Vietnam. El mundo tampoco olvidará que tras firmar un tratado de paz que prometía reparaciones por los daños irreparables causados por el gobierno estadounidense y su ejército, Estados Unidos renegó.

No sólo sigue negando miles de millones de dólares en reparaciones, sino que tuvo el descaro sin paliativos de exigir que Vietnam pagara a Estados Unidos 140 millones de dólares en deudas de guerra contraídas por el régimen títere de Vietnam del Sur a cambio de normalizar las relaciones comerciales. Esto es similar a la audaz exigencia del gobierno francés en el siglo XIX de que Haití pagara reparaciones por la pérdida de beneficios de los esclavizadores franceses tras la victoria el 1 de enero de 1804 de la primera república negra independiente del hemisferio occidental.

La victoria de Vietnam en 1975 y sus avances desde entonces siguen inspirando a los trabajadores y a los pueblos oprimidos de todo el mundo, incluida la lucha de liberación en la Palestina ocupada.

Esto inspiró al gran revolucionario internacionalista y comunista Che Guevara a declarar: «Dos, tres o muchos Vietnams», al referirse a la revolución mundial.

Reparaciones estadounidenses a Vietnam ¡ya! ☐